

Mille Soto  
Parent Co-Chair, School Governance Council  
John C. Clark School, Hartford, CT

**Re: Senate Bill 942**

To Whom it May Concern –

My name is Mille Soto and I have two children who attend John C. Clark Elementary and Middle School here in Hartford, CT. I am submitting testimony today because someone told me that you are hearing a bill that could change the commissioner's network, and I have an opinion on that. The process we went through last year was a disaster. The fight that me as a parent and other parents as leaders for their kids went through to make sure we didn't get nothing was something I never want to go through again. So much politics. So much time away from my family. So much sacrifice and fighting with people who have their own interests. And very hard to understand who wanted what and who was in charge and what the options were. We were supposed to be a committee working together and instead with the voting power we were fighting each other. I had to have my school governance council vote before the turnaround committee voted. My kids teachers that we know and love voted with the parents and the Principal for a turnaround with a outside partner 10-0. Then, the turnaround committee vote was 6-1 and we got nothing. I had to go to the state department. To the state board. To the Hartford Board. Write letters. Talk to people I don't know what they have to do with my school. And finally we got CREC. And now we don't even know what we have. But at least we won something. If the process can change, that would be very good. Especially for parents. We get pushed around for other peoples interests because people things we don't know what we want. We know. Other parents need to have a better process. I hope you read the case study that is coming out on our school turnaround process. It was a disaster. Maybe this helps.

Thank you for reading.

Mille Soto